GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Endowments Department- Ensuring autonomy to the temples in the matters of Vaidic and Agama issues-Preserving the sanctity of Customs and traditions of the respective temples without any disturbance-Strict Compliance of statutory provisions under Section-13(1) of the Endowments Act- Orders-Issued

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REVENUE(ENDOWMENTS-I)DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.223 **Dated.09/10/2024**

Read the following:-

From the CED e-Office fileNo.COE/1001/2024-J

ORDER:

In the circumstances reported by the Commissioner of Endowments in the reference read above, Government after careful examination, hereby issue the following orders to all the Departmental authorities for strict compliance of the statutory provisions in Section-13(1) of the A P Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987 to ensuring autonomy to the temples in the matters of Vaidic and Agama issues thereby preserving the sanctity of customs and traditions of the respective temples without any disturbance

1. Administrative authorities of Endowments Department including the Commissioner, Regional Joint Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner, who is having Administrative control over the respective temples, shall not interfere with the Aagama traditions, Customs and usages of the respective temples in any manner.

2. In taking decisions on all important religious matters including the mode of performing Rituals and Sevas to the deities, Fixation of Muhurthams for performance of Yagams, Kumbabhishekams, other Festivals, for proposing introduction of new Sevas and Rituals etc , the opinion of senior most Archakas/ Religious staff of the temple shall prevail over, as far as the religious aspects are concerned. For this purpose, the Executive Officers may constitute Vaidic committees with the senior most religious staff of the respective temples if necessary, in all 6(a) temples. I n case any doubt arises or any difference of opinion arises among the members of such committee, then the opinion of Peethadhipathis of renowned peethams pertaining to that particular Agama can be consulted.

(Contd….)

However, for this purpose each religious institution shall be considered as a single entity. No religious institution shall be insisted to follow the customs and usage of another religious institution, even on the ground that such other institution is also belong to the same Agama.

3. The Executive authorities concerned shall not interfere in the Rituals and Sevas to the deities, Fixation of Muhurthams for performance of Yagams, Kumbabhishekams, other Festivals etc except for the purpose to ensure that no deviation from the Agama traditions, Customs and Usages of that particular temple, is taken place.

2. The Commissioner of Endowments shall take necessary further action in the matter

(**BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)**

S.SATYANARAYANA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(FAC)

To
The Commissioner of Endowments, A P , Gollapudi, Vijayawada
SC/SF

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER